



Contact:
USDA Office of Communications (202) 720-3088

USDA Resources for Those Affected by the Birds Point-New Madrid Floodway in Southern Missouri

May 4, 2011

Farm Service Agency and Risk Management Agency

Crop losses

- Those producers who purchased crop insurance and whose crops have been damaged by excess moisture causing flooding will be covered by their crop insurance policies. Producers who farm in the floodway and purchased crop insurance will be eligible for crop insurance indemnities in accordance with the provisions of their crop insurance policy. Those producers who are unable to plant, but have purchased crop insurance, will be eligible for prevented planting payments in accordance with the provisions of their policy. Producers should contact their crop insurance agent as soon as possible to report any losses or prevented planting.
- These same producers will also be eligible for disaster assistance through the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program. In order to be eligible for SURE, a producer is required to have obtained a crop insurance policy or Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage, unless they are a socially disadvantaged, limited resource or beginning farmer or rancher. .

Assistance to repair cropland

- USDA can also help restore damaged and flooded land. The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) provides emergency funding and technical assistance for farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters. Subject to the availability of funding, and certain other conditions, ECP can be used to assist with debris removal and repairing damaged farmland due to the breach of the levy.

Other assistance

- FSA provides emergency loans through the Emergency Loan Program (EM) to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to natural disasters. Producers in these counties will be eligible for these loans as soon as the county is declared a Presidential or Secretarial disaster county. Emergency loan funds may be used to: restore or replace essential property; pay all or part of production costs associated with the

disaster year; pay essential family living expenses; reorganize the farming operation; and refinance certain debts.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

- NRCS administers the Emergency Watershed Protection program, through which we help local communities recover from natural disasters. All projects undertaken must be sponsored by a political subdivision of the State, such as a city, county, general improvement district, or conservation district.
- NRCS may bear up to 75 percent of the construction cost of emergency measures or up to 90 percent in limited resource areas. The remaining cost-share must come from local sources and can be in the form of cash or in-kind services. Requests must be made by local communities to NRCS state staff.

Rural Development

- For rural communities, Rural Development has fairly broad discretion at all times to work with existing borrowers to negotiate “workout agreements” in the event repayment of a loan for a water, wastewater, or essential community facilities project has been threatened, including for reasons related to natural disasters.
- Individuals are encouraged to contact FEMA for their immediate needs. Rural Development provides FEMA with regular information as to vacant units in multi-family housing complexes financed by the agency, and following a Presidential disaster declaration, FEMA can assist with placement and vouchers to cover short-term rental costs. Housing and business assistance programs are available over the longer term to help finance repair and replacement of homes and businesses.

Food and Nutrition Service

- USDA’s nutrition programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, the Summer Food Service Program, and The Emergency Food Assistance Program offer food assistance to families in times of need.

For additional information, please visit www.usda.gov.

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